

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #73-9 Building Date: ca. 1807, ca. 1856

Site Name: Rose Mount

Location: (9600) Landover Road, Landover, Maryland

Private/Agriculture/Unoccupied/Ruins/Inaccessible

Description

The site of Rose Mount includes the foundations of the mid-nineteenth century house of Joseph Kent Roberts, several trees which framed the house, remnants of gardens, and the site of Governor Joseph Kent's grave. There is also a tenant dwelling, and several deteriorating barns. The house at Rose Mount burned to the ground in 1974, and today the foundations are visible, though overgrown, on the highest elevation on the site. The foundations are iron-bearing sandstone surmounted by several courses of brick. The house was a two-and-one-half story frame dwelling, five bays by two bays, with attached two-story wing. Its plan consisted of central stairhall flanked by double parlors; entrance was in the central bay of the south facade, through double doors surmounted by a five-light transom. Above the entrance bay was a central cross-gable. Four interior brick chimney stacks flanked the central passage, and served fireplaces in the interior walls of the four parlors and bedrooms above. The east wing consisted of a pantry with a boxed staircase, and a kitchen warmed by a large fireplace in the east gable wall. Family tradition indicates that Governor Kent's unmarked grave is located southeast of the house in a level area used in this century as a garden.

Significance:

The site of Rose Mount was the home place of Governor Joseph Kent, and the site of the frame plantation house built later by his nephew, Joseph Kent Roberts. Only the foundation remains of the Roberts house, and the site is heavily overgrown. In 1806, 840 acres of land, part of tracts known as Park Hall and Brooke Grove, were purchased by Dr. Joseph Kent. On this property, which he renamed Rose Mount, he built a plantation house, reportedly of stone, and developed terraced gardens. Kent, besides practicing medicine, served in the U.S. House of Representatives 1810-1815 and 1819-1826. He was elected Governor of Maryland and served from 1826-1829, and served in the U.S. Senate from 1833 until his death. He died at Rose Mount in 1837, and was buried there. After Kent's death, the Chancery court decreed that Rose Mount should be sold to pay the Governor's debts; it was purchased in 1840 by his nephew, Joseph Kent Roberts. No record has been found of what happened to Kent's plantation house. Roberts probably built his frame dwelling in 1856, to replace the older house, possibly using the stone foundation of the older house. Roberts died at Rose Mount in 1883 and devised the property to his son, William W. Roberts, who made it his home until his death there in 1933. The farm remained the home of his unmarried daughters, until their deaths in 1958 and 1963. The house was destroyed by fire in 1974. The 260-acre property was sold to a consortium of the family, in 1984. Rose Mount was the home site of a prominent Prince George's County family, but only scattered traces of the plantation remain.

Ac age: 260 acres

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Site of Rose Mount

and/or common

2. Location

street & number (9600) Landover Road (Now on Saint Joseph's Drive) ☐ not for publicationcity, town Landover ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5state Maryland ☐ county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Balk Hill, Incorporated

street & number 8319 Kerry Road telephone no.:

city, town Chevy Chase state and zip code Maryland 20815

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5889

street & number Main Street folio 973

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. Co. Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records County Planning, MNCPPC

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

7. Description

Survey No. PG#73-9

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☒ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The site of Rose Mount includes the foundations of the mid-nineteenth century house of Joseph Kent Roberts, several large lindens and other trees which framed the house, remnants of terraced gardens, and the site of Governor Joseph Kent's grave. To the north and east of the house site is one tenant dwelling, and several early twentieth century barns in poor condition. This complex of features is located on rolling farmland, not visible from Landover Road, but accessible by an unpaved lane which leads northeast from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. The house foundations are located on a hill, the highest elevation on the site, and the property now consists of 260 acres owned by Balk Hill, Incorporated. The house at Rose Mount burned to the ground in 1974, and today the foundations are visible, although heavily overgrown. The foundations are built of rough local iron-bearing sandstone surmounted by several courses of brick, and once enclosed a full basement. The house was a two-and-one-half story frame hip-roofed dwelling, five bays by two bays, with attached two-story wing. The house plan consisted of central stairhall flanked by double parlors; entrance was in the central bay of the principal south facade, through double doors surmounted by a five-light transom. Above the entrance bay was a central cross-gable. The entrance was sheltered by a one-story three-bay hip-roof porch supported by Tuscan columns. Four interior brick chimney stacks flanked the central passage, and served fireplaces in the interior walls of the four parlors and bedrooms above. The fireplaces were embellished with marble mantels. The east wing consisted of a pantry room, which had a small boxed staircase in its interior corner and a kitchen in the east, warmed by a large fireplace in the east gable wall.

A short distance northeast of the house stood a (probably contemporary) smoke house, and northwest of the house stood a twentieth century garage building.

The unpaved lane leads northeast from Landover Road, past cultivated fields and several tobacco barns, climbs the grade known as Balk Hill and bends north toward the house site. At the location of the gardens the lane forks, one branch leading northeast to a tenant house, and the other (now overgrown) leading westward around the hill to the garage behind the house site. Family tradition indicates that Governor Kent's unmarked grave is located just north of the fork, in a level area used in this century as a vegetable garden.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#73-9

Period	Area of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1807, 1856

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The site of Rose Mount has considerable historic significance, being the home place of Governor Joseph Kent, and the site of the frame plantation house built later by his nephew, Joseph Kent Roberts. Only the foundation remains of the Roberts house, however; the site is heavily overgrown and awaiting development.

In 1806, 840 acres of land, part of tracts known as Park Hall and Brooke Grove, were purchased by Dr. Joseph Kent.¹ On this property, which he renamed Rose Mount, he built a plantation house, reportedly of stone, and developed fine terraced gardens with roses and lilies. Kent, besides practicing medicine, served in the U.S. House of Representatives 1810-1815 and 1819-1826. He was elected Governor of Maryland and served from 1826-1829, and served in the U.S. Senate from 1833 until his death in 1837. He died at Rose Mount in November 1837, and was buried there. In 1986, Governor Kent was elevated to the Prince George's County Hall of Fame.²

After Kent's death, his widow and the minor children of his first marriage moved to Alexandria. Kent's creditors brought suit against his estate, and the Chancery Court decreed that Rose Mount should be sold to pay his debts. Commissioners were appointed to lay off the dower lot, 300 acres, in which the widow, Alice Kent, was assigned a life estate. The 900-acre estate was offered at public sale, 27 November 1840, and purchased by the Governor's nephew, Joseph Kent Roberts.³ No record has yet been discovered as to what happened to Kent's plantation house. It is possible that it was destroyed during this period, for the widow resided in Alexandria, and then before 1850, removed to Baltimore. The 300-acre dower portion was for a time leased to James Kent of Anne Arundel County; in 1856, the reversion rights to the dower portion were purchased by Roberts, and it was probably at this time that he built the large frame house which was his family's home for three generations.⁴ It is possible that

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG#73-9

Section 8 Page 2

Roberts reused the stone foundation of the older house when he constructed his frame dwelling, and that the still visible stone substructure of the foundation represents the earlier building.

Joseph Kent Roberts died at Rose Mount in 1883 and devised the property to his son, William W. Roberts, who made it his home until his death there in 1933.⁵ The farm remained the home of his unmarried daughters, Alice and Elesa Roberts, until their deaths in 1958 and 1963 respectively. Their wills devised the home place to members of their siblings' families; in the late 1960's, these fractional interests, totalling 260 acres, were bought up by Charles H. Berry, nephew of the Roberts sisters.⁶ The large frame house was occupied by tenants for a few years, but was apparently unoccupied when it was destroyed by fire in 1974. The 260-acre property was sold to a consortium of the family, Balk Hill, Inc. in 1984.⁷

Although the site of Rose Mount has important historical associations, there is little left to see there. The grave of Governor Kent is unmarked, and only an oral family tradition suggests its location. The formal gardens are difficult to distinguish, although there is a suggestion of the terrace levels south and east of the house site. The drive which led northwest around the gardens up to the house site is overgrown and impassable. At the house site itself, the highest point in the immediate area, the house foundations are clearly visible. The four interior chimneys stood for nearly a decade after the 1974 fire, but the bricks now lie in overgrown mounds. Rose Mount was the home site of two prominent Prince George's County families, but only scattered traces of the plantation remain.

Notes

1. Prince George's County Deeds, JRM#12:136; JRM#13:273; JRM#17:580,583.
2. White, Frank F.Jr., The Governors of Maryland, 1777-1970, Hall of Records, Annapolis, 1970; Prince George's County Hall of Fame brochure, 1987.
3. Prince George's County Chancery #7537; National Intelligencer, 3 November 1840; Prince George's County Deed JBB #3:370.
4. Prince George's County Chancery #7537; Bowie, Effie Gwynn, Across the Years in Prince George's County, 1947, pp. 230, 441; Prince George's County Deeds JBB #4:396; JBB #6:553; CSM #1:436.
5. Prince George's County Wills, WAJ Jr. #1:361 (1883) and WTD #3:318 (1933)
6. Prince George's County Wills WDA #3:321 (1958) and WDA #11:767 (1963), Prince George's County Deeds #3409:673; #3656:893; etc.
7. Prince George's County Deed #5889:973.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#73-9

Cf. Notes, Item #8

Cf. Chain of Title

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 260.8 acres

Tax map #60, parcel 53

Quadrangle name Lanham, Section D

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission

date May 1987

street & number County Planning, MNCPPC

telephone 301-952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

PG: 25-9

1701645304

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Rosemount				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 9600 Landover Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Landover				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Bath		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment				
<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum				
<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific				
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:				
Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		
Upper Marlboro		Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
Historic Sites in the Bi-County Region				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969				
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
8787 Georgia Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		
Silver Spring		Maryland		

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Home of Gov. Kent. His grave--unmarked--is reportedly on the property.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES	

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA						
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NDMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY	
NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION MNCPPC	DATE 25 Sept 73
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)	
Significance of this property is: National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>	
Signature _____	

INSTRUCTIONS

DESCRIPTION	
CO	ION
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair </div> <div>(Check One)</div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered </div> <div>(Check One)</div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div> </div>	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The house is a five bay, two story frame structure sheathed with clapboards. A one story porch covers the three center bays; the doorway has double doors and a five light transom. The hipped-roof is bracketed. Interior chimneys are positioned about one-third of the length of the house from either end wall. On the end walls, the roof has two dormer windows.</p> <p>In plan, the house has a central hall with flanking double parlors. The staircase, rising at the end of the hall, is open to the third floor. Detailing includes cornices over windows and doors, six panel doors and marble fireplaces. In the two front parlors, the firplaces have grates, one made by W.E. Wood & Co., and the other by S.E. Sexton & Co., both of Baltimore.</p> <p>The kitchen wing has a large fireplace and a small boxed staircase.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE	
PERIOD (Check One)	<input type="checkbox"/> 15th
SPECIFIC DATE	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aborigin <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural <input type="checkbox"/> Artistic <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Community <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	
<p>Historic</p> <p>on</p>	

73-9

R-R

BELTWAY PROPERTIES
ASSOCIATES
7368/125
78.36 A.
P. 25

ST. JOSEPH'S
DRIVE

ST. JOSEPH'S
PARISH

'A'

6738

73-21

202

1-A

2-A

11034

BASIL

CT.

119011

LOT 38

INGLEWOOD BUSINESS
COMMUNITY

3-A

I-3

LOT 34

LOT 37

LOT 35

108042

5

6

PEPPERCORN PL.

INGLEWOOD BUSINESS COMMUNITY

LOT 32

LOT 36

LOT 31

LOT 33

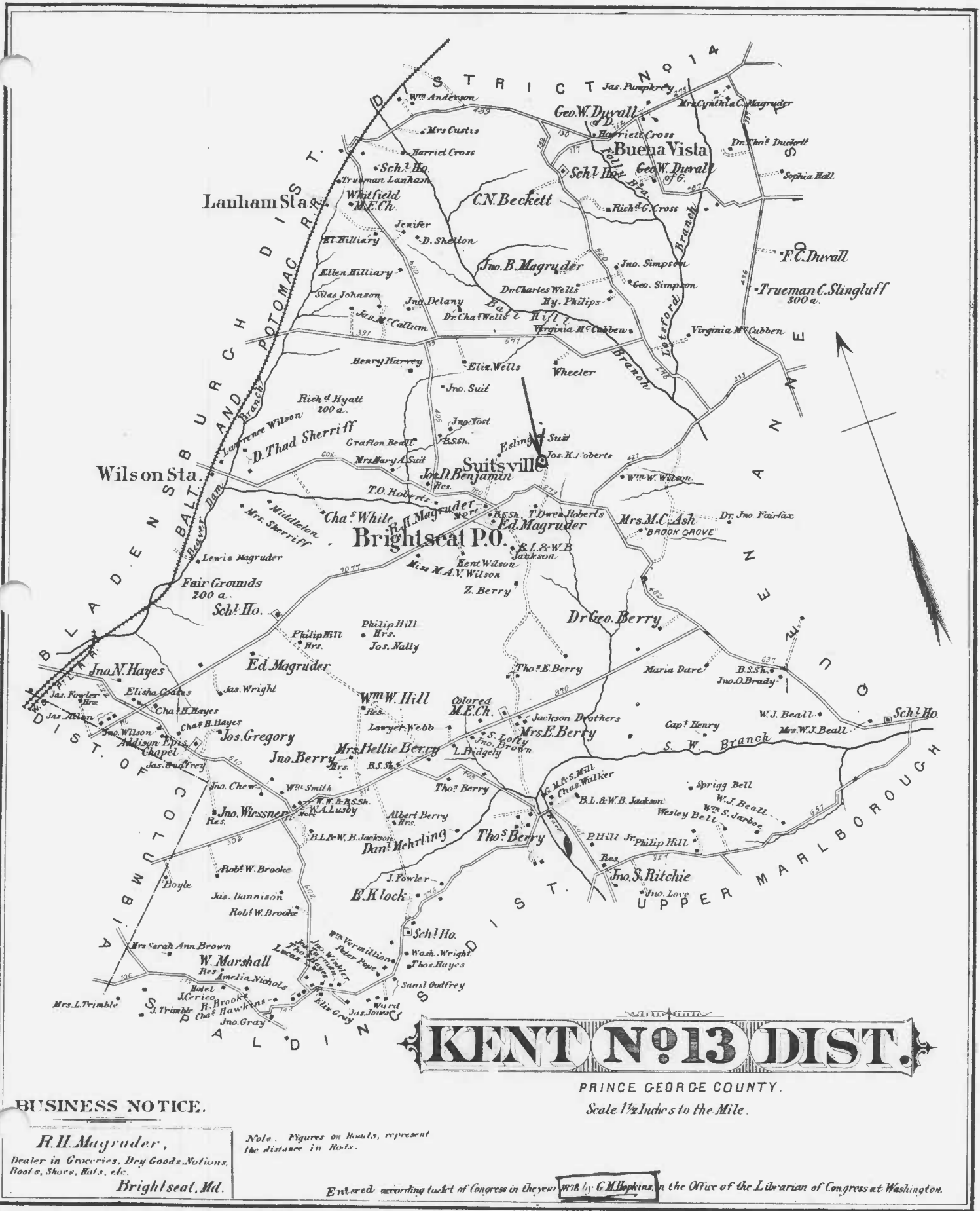
MCCORMICK
DRIVE

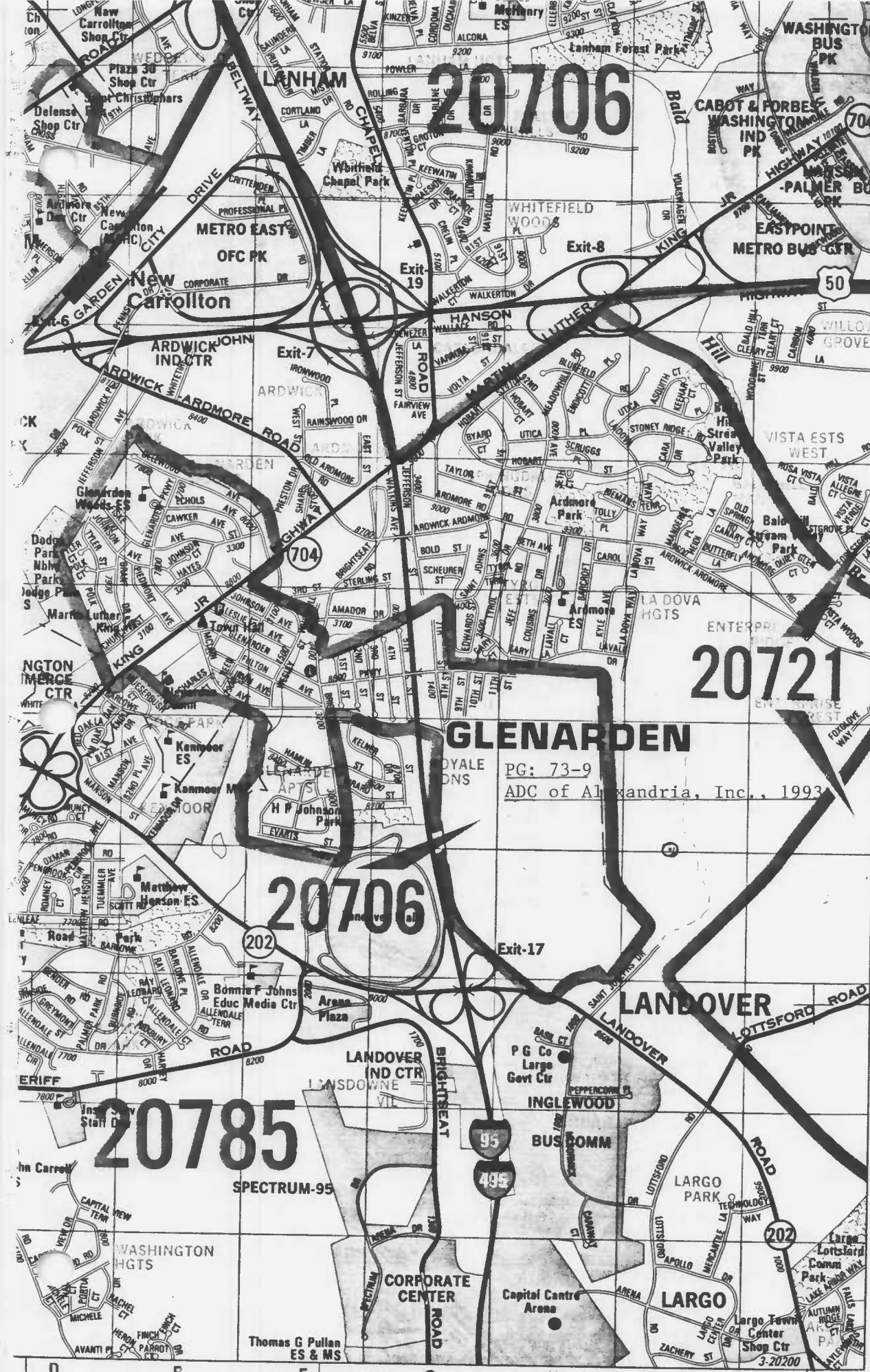
LANDOVER

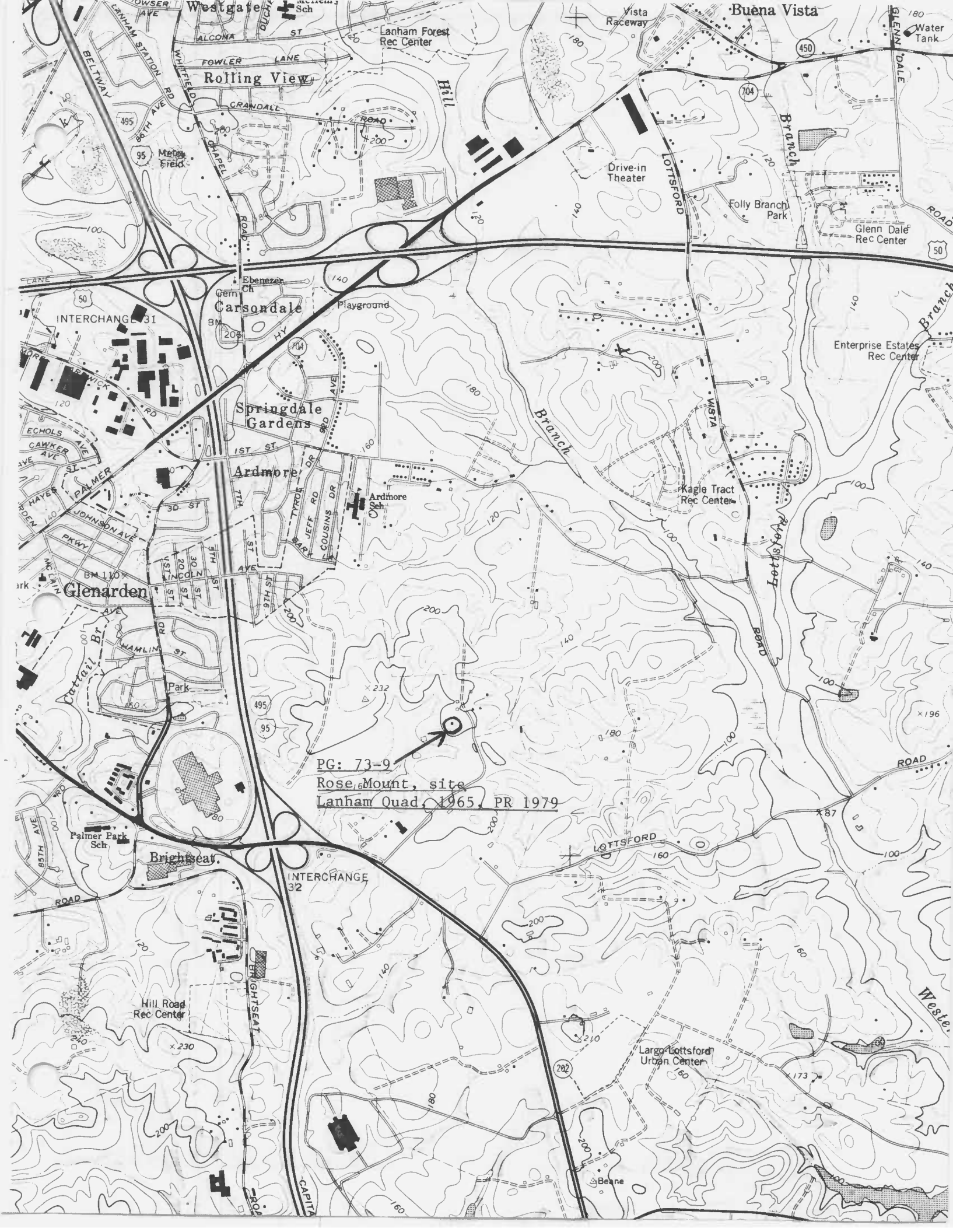
RD.

RD.

R-R









NAME ROSEMOUNT - KITCHEN FIREPLACE

LOCATION OFF RT. 202 & RT. 495 BRIGHTSEAT, MD.
6900 LANOVER RD.

FACADE

PHOTO TAKEN 9/24/73 M. DWYER

PG: 73-9